Following the stance by Bartlett's PPI insurers, he decides to risk a return to racing, against the medical and legal advice .

JB-11a

George Ide, Phillips

SOLICITORS

Dear Doctor Dee

Mr John Middleton Bartlett

We are no doubt aware that I act for Mr Bartlett in relation to the various matters arising out of claims with Insurance Companies. Mr Bartlett is of the opinion that he is being forced to return to motor racing as a result of the higher rates by these Insurance Companies. I understand from him that you are of the opinion that it would be unwise for him to do so. I wonder whether you would be prepared to let me have a brief report confirming this and your reasons for taking this stance. I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely,

H W OLIVER

Encl - Medical Authority

JB11b

Our ref: HWO/JP

Your ref: IPG/rb/Bartlett.Clgns

George Ide, Phillips
Lion House
79 St Pancras
Littlehampton
West Sussex

Dear Mr Oliver

Re: Mr John Middleton BARTLETT Dob - 19.01.55
Priory Manor Worthington Arundel

Thank you very much for your letter asking for my opinion on Mr Bartlett's medical fitness to return to motor racing.

In my opinion it would be most unwise for Mr Bartlett to return to motor racing. As you know he has had continuing low back pain associated with irritation of the lumbar spinal nerves to his legs. This has been confirmed by numerous investigations, including those of Mr John Stewart and eminent orthopaedic surgeon whose opinion I greatly respect.

There is already a permanent disability in the form of a spondylolisthesis of L5 on S1. This means that the lower lumbar vertebra (L5) has slipped forward on the first sacral vertebra (S1) and further movement of this lesion could cause very serious damage to his spinal cord, or at the very least to the spinal nerves at that level, which supply his legs.

As you know he is a professional racing driver at world class level and this occupation involves considerable traction forces on his lumbar spine associated with rapid acceleration and deceleration and the G-forces experienced in bends.

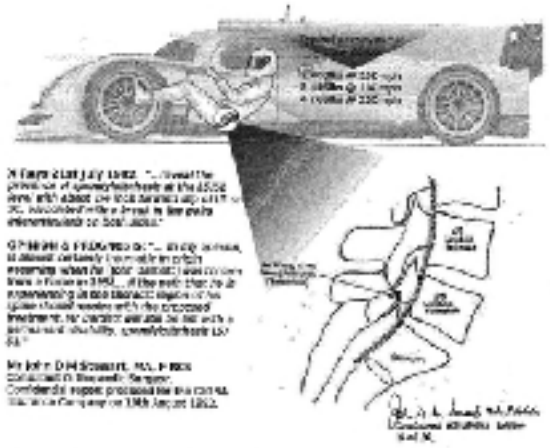
It would not seem be wise for Mr Bartlett to undertake ordinary heavy lifting that would be associated with maintenance of his house and garden, let alone the forces involved in motor racing.

To summarise it is my considered opinion that Mr John Middleton Bartlett should not return to motor racing, on the grounds that he will further damage an unstable spine and in so doing increase his current disability.

Yours sincerely

HOWARD W. OLIVER
GENERAL PRACTITIONER

JB-26e

JB - 26e

Inclined Driving Position in Group C Racing Car